

**Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**250 – 32160 South Fraser Way  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 1W5**

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**Strategic:** Identify key opportunities and systemic challenges and plan for actions to effectively manage risks and take advantage of future opportunities.

**Accountable:** Maintain legitimacy and integrity through understanding and discharging responsibilities and reporting performance.

**Fair:** Ensure procedural fairness in processes and decision-making.

**Effective:** A clearly defined outcome with appropriate processes and measures.

**Transparent:** Ensure that processes, practices, procedures & reporting on exercise of mandate are open, accessible and fully informed.

**Inclusive:** Ensure that appropriate interests, including the public interest, are considered.

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**MINUTES**  
**of**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Date:** July 25, 2023

**Location:** BCEMB Boardroom

**BOARD IN ATTENDANCE:** Gunta Vitins, Chair  
Walter Siemens, Vice-Chair  
Jon Krahn, Board Member  
Jeff Regier, Board Member  
Matt Vane, Board Member

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:** Katie Lowe, Executive Director  
Joey Aebig, Manager Operations & Logistics  
Erin Duetta, Manager Finance  
Amanda Brittain, Director, Marketing & Communications

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Vice Chair, Walter Siemens, called the meeting to order at 10:35am.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The Board discussed any perceived conflicts of interest with the proposed agenda items.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was MOVED by Matt Vane and SECONDED that the agenda be adopted with the following addition:

5.5 BCMMB v BCFIRB Supreme Court Decision

CARRIED

## **1.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### 1.1 Approval of Minutes of June 8, 2023

**R23-060** It was MOVED by Jon Krahn and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors approve the Minutes of June 8, 2023 as presented.

CARRIED

### 1.2 Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2023

**R23-061** It was MOVED by Jeff Regier and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors approve the Minutes of June 16, 2023\_as presented.

CARRIED

### 1.3 Approval of Minutes of June 26, 2023

**R23-062** It was MOVED by Matt Vane and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors approve the Minutes of June 26, 2023\_as presented.

CARRIED

## **2.0 BUSINESS ARISING/ACTION LIST**

### 2.1 2023 Board Calendar & Action Item

The 2023 board calendars and action item list were presented for information.

## **3.0 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

### 3.1 EFC Update

An update on the matters of EFC and its committees was presented for information.

### 3.2 Regional Reports

Updates from the regional representatives were presented.

### 3.3 Marketing Update

A marketing update was presented for information that included traditional advertising and social media campaigns as well as events held and upcoming.

### 3.4 2024 AGM Update

An update on the 2024 AGM schedule and budget was presented for discussion. Two options for keynote speakers for the Board's consideration were presented by staff.

**Action:** Staff to send the list of activities that are being suggested for the welcome reception to the Board.

3.5 Farmed Animal Framework Update

After meeting with each of the commodity boards and BCFIRB to gain a better understanding of the current Farmed Animal Welfare Framework, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food formed an advisory committee that is tasked with making the framework more explicit and transparent, and ensuring the current framework promotes high standards of farmed animal welfare and supports those involved in delivering these standards on an ongoing basis. The Board discussed the proposed meeting to be held on August 22 and who should attend on behalf of BC Egg.

**4.0 OPERATIONS**

4.1 Quota Transfers

4.1a Producer A

BCEMB has received quota transfer requests from a registered producer which was presented for review.

**R23-063** It was MOVED by Walter Siemens and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors grant final approval for transfer of [REDACTED] units of layer quota from the partnership of from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED].

THAT the Board of Directors grant final approval for transfer of [REDACTED] units of layer quota from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED].

CARRIED

**Action:** Staff to send out the quota transfer booklet yearly to producers.

4.1b Producer B

A producer is planning to sell their farm as a going concern sale. The details regarding the proposed sale were presented for review. Information needed for the Board to make the decision was not made available by the producer and the decision has been deferred until the application is submitted in full.

4.1c Producer C

BCEMB has received quota transfer requests from a registered producer which was presented for review.

**R23-064** It was MOVED by Jeff Regier and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors conditionally approve the proposed share structure change at [REDACTED] through the transfer of [REDACTED] existing Common Shares to the [REDACTED] with the Sole Beneficiaries [REDACTED]. Subsection 3(4)(a) of Part V of the Consolidated Order states that a surrender of Layer Quota is not required where "Layer Quota is Transferred, or deemed to have been Transferred, to the Transferor's spouse, child, or child and the child's spouse." This proposal represents a deemed transfer from parent to child, therefore in accordance with the Consolidated Orders Part V 3.(4)(a) a surrender of layer quota is not required. This transfer will not be affected by the twelve-month moratorium and [REDACTED] will be eligible to participate in future growth allocations.

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THAT the Board of Directors conditionally approve the proposed share structure change at [REDACTED] through the transfer of [REDACTED] existing Common Shares to the [REDACTED] with the Sole Beneficiaries [REDACTED]. Subsection 3(4)(a) of Part V of the Consolidated Order states that a surrender of Layer Quota is not required where “Layer Quota is Transferred, or deemed to have been Transferred, to the Transferor’s spouse, child, or child and the child’s spouse.” This proposal represents a deemed transfer from parent to child, therefore in accordance with the Consolidated Orders Part V 3.(4)(a) a surrender of layer quota is not required. This transfer will not be affected by the twelve-month moratorium and [REDACTED] will be eligible to participate in future growth allocations.

WHEREAS [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] complete the conditionally approved transfers, where the [REDACTED] Sole Beneficiaries [REDACTED] hold the proportional same ownership in both farms, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will be considered a Business Unit.

CARRIED

**4.2** Quota Credit Program

An update to the Quota Credit Program was provided which, if implemented by the Board would require an action plan and possible reconciliation for tracking quota credits (QCs) earned and issued by BC Egg. The Board discussed how quota credit reconciliation could be tracked and provided feedback to ensure that the pertinent information is regularly communicated to producers. The updates under consideration to the quota credit program will require a change to the Consolidated Order.

**R23-065** It was MOVED by Jon Krahn and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors approve the Quota Credit Policy as presented and the first reading of Amendment Order #01 of the 2023 Consolidated Order as presented.

CARRIED

**Action:** Staff to notify producers of the updated quota credit policy and the effective date.

**4.3** TAP B Program Update

At the June 8 Board meeting, the Board approved the TAP B program for usage from July 2, 2023 to June 29, 2024 for 40,000 quota units. An update on the distribution of the program by production type as well as funds expected to be collected was presented for discussion.

**4.4** Production Sleeve

As a short province, BC seeks to utilize 100% of its provincially allotted quota each year. To date, production sleeves have been used as an effective tool to incentivize producers to place additional birds in an effort to maximize the use of the quota that has been allocated to our province by EFC. The Board reviewed the 2024 anticipated utilization rate and discussed the impacts a change in percentage to the sleeve would have on producers.

**R23-066** It was MOVED by Matt Vane and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors approve the production sleeve will be reduced to 6% effective Week 01, 2024 (December 31, 2023).

CARRIED

**Action:** Staff to communicate December 31, 2023 change to the production sleeve to producers.

4.5 MNPT

A project team was developed to encourage greater collaboration between graders, producers and the Board to more closely align production with market needs. An update on the work being done by this project team was discussed.

4.5a MNPT Framework

A framework was created to set the guidelines and expectations regarding the solutions developed by the MNPT. The project team unanimously agreed to recommend the framework for the Board's consideration at the July 5, 2023 meeting.

**R23-067** It was MOVED by Jon Krahn and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors approve the Market Needs Production Program Framework as presented.

CARRIED

4.5b STTMQ Solution

At the June 26 Board of Directors meeting the Board discussed a producer/grader proposal which would alleviate some of the excess Free-Range product that is reportedly being produced in BC. Conceptually the Board was supportive of the proposal but favoured a workable solution that could be utilized by all BCEMB producers. The MNPT discussed the concept of a STTMQ expansion at the July 5 meeting. The program is currently being utilized for additional Classic White production but is intended to be market responsive and therefore could be utilized to incentivize producers to shift production types. The MNPT was in favour of expanding the STTMQ program to enable producers to convert to Free Run White production. Staff presented a modified policy document for the STTMQ program for the Board's consideration.

**R23-068** It was MOVED by Jon Krahn and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors approve the July 25, 2023 BC STTMQ Program Policy document as amended.

CARRIED

4.6 H5PAI Update

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza was found in poultry flocks in all Canadian Provinces (except PEI) and throughout the US in 2022 and 2023. BC industry has been working with the Ministry of Agriculture and CFIA on the response. An update was provided on control zones, funding available through the farmed animal disease and federal assistance programs.

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4.6a Extended Lay Request

*J. Krahn recused himself.*

A producer has requested permission to moult a flock in the summer of 2024. The Board discussed the producer's request based on the guidelines set out in the Consolidated Order.

**R23-069** It was MOVED by Jeff Regier and SECONDED

WHEREAS Part IX 6. (5) of the Consolidated Order states that controlled Moulting is only permitted with prior approval of the Board;

WHEREAS moulting should only be contemplated when there are no alternative options available;

WHEREAS the requested moult would occur approximately one year from the date of the request and current predictions do not indicate there will be exceptional circumstances that may precipitate the need for a flock to be moulted;

THAT the Board of Directors decline [REDACTED] request for the opportunity to moult a flock of [REDACTED] laying hens in the summer of 2024 for flock realignment purposes.

CARRIED

4.7 2023 NPP Program Update

An update on the 2023 NPP program was presented for information. As the 30-day window for unsuccessful candidates to appeal the Board decision has passed, the NPP program will move forward. As there were only two successful candidates, a draw is not necessary and performance deposits will be requested from the applicants.

4.7a Presentation from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had requested to meet with the Board to discuss their NPP application. The Johnstons did not arrive at the meeting at their scheduled time or communicate with the Board regarding their absence so their application did not require further review.

4.8 Producer Appeal

At the June 8 meeting, the Board declined the going concern transfer request between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as it did not meet the criteria for a going concern sale. The Notice of Appeal was sent to BCFIRB on June 21, 2023 with the Pre-hearing Conference Call (PHC) scheduled for Wednesday July 26 at 9:30am. Gunta Vitins, Katie Lowe and [REDACTED] will be attending the PHC on behalf of BC Egg and an update will be provided at the next Board meeting.

4.9 Interior Fowl Removal

The current Interior fowl removal contractor gave notice that they will be terminating the contract effective September 30, 2023. The Board received and reviewed two proposals that were submitted from potential contractors.

**R23-070** It was MOVED by Matt Vane and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors approve [REDACTED] to provide services for the Interior fowl removal effective Oct 1, 2023.

CARRIED

4.10 Specialty Buyback Request

An increase to the 2023 budgeted specialty buyback funds has been requested by the BCEPC. As the request did not provide the amount the BCEPC is requesting, the Board has deferred the decision until more information is received.

4.11 EFC Buyback

On July 11, 2023 the EFC Board approved an increase in the buyback from \$0.04 to \$0.08. The increase is retroactive to Jan 1, 2023 and EFC will notify provincial boards by the end of the summer what their payment will be. The buyback is added to the lesser of COP and producer price, paid to the provincial boards. The Board has deferred the decision regarding the amount of buyback funds to be paid to the graders until funds have been received from EFC.

4.12 Modification request to Canadian Organic Standards

Pullet Growers of Canada have identified a concern with the Canadian Organic Standards and have asked the provinces to request a review of that standard. The PMC had previously reviewed the proposal and did not provide any feedback for review.

**Action:** Staff to provide a response requesting the standards be more aligned with the NFACC Codes of Practice.

4.13 EFC Free Range Standards

Since 2017, BC has been conducting Specialty Audits on Free-Range producers in BC that included defined requirements for producers ensuring eggs marketed as Free-Range are meeting expected standards. At the 2023 summer meeting, EFC approved a national Free-Range program that will be based on the Canadian Organic Standards and BC Free-Range program.

This program will be included as part of the Animal Care Audit Program effective July 31, 2024. To avoid duplication, especially with the two programs mirroring one another, staff proposed BC adopt the national Free-Range program.

**Action:** Staff to bring the EFC Free Range standards to the PMC for review.

4.14 BC Poultry Biosecurity Program

The BC Poultry Biosecurity Committee reviews the BC Poultry Biosecurity Program on a regular basis and requests feedback and recommended changes from board inspectors every two years. This year, the Biosecurity Committee updated the red biosecurity status requirements as well as the program manual and audit checklist.

**R23-071** It was MOVED by Jeff Regier and SECONDED

THAT the Board incorporate the recommended updates into the BC Poultry Biosecurity Program Manual, BC Poultry Biosecurity Program Audit Checklist and Red Biosecurity Status Requirements for implementation effective September 1, 2023.

CARRIED

**Action:** Staff to notify producers of the updated BC Poultry Biosecurity Program that will be effective September 1, 2023.

4.15 EFC Animal Care Program

BC requires that all producers comply with the EFC Animal Care Program. In May 2023 a Redeveloped Animal Care Program (R-ACP) replaced the previous Animal Care Program. The R-ACP incorporates the requirements from the 2017 Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets and Laying Hens.

As of May 2023, auditors in BC have been delivering the R-ACP to BC layer producers. One change with the R-ACP audit includes the requirement for every audit element to be completed. This means that at the conclusion of a producer's CAR period, each producer must score 100% on their R-ACP to pass the audit.

**R23-072** It was MOVED by Walter Siemens and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors approve the first reading of Amending Order #02 of the 2023 Consolidated Order as presented.

CARRIED

4.16 System Migration

BC Egg's current system is out of date and does not meet reporting needs. Converge provided a recorded demo for the Board's consideration. Three system options and associated costs were presented for information. Staff will follow up with the companies and bring final information to the August meeting for a decision on which system would best meet producers needs.

## **5.0 GOVERNANCE**

5.1 Committee Minutes

5.1a March 14, 2023 EIAC Minutes

The March 14, 2023 EIAC minutes and meeting summary were presented for information.

5.1b May 5, 2023 MNPT Minutes

The May 5, 2023 MNPT minutes and meeting summary were presented for information.

5.1c June 7, 2023 MNPT Minutes

The June 7, 2023 MNPT minutes and meeting summary were presented for information.

5.1d November 15, 2022 Marcom Minutes

The November 15, 2022 Marcom minutes and meeting summary were presented for information.

5.1e January 31, 2023 MNPT Minutes

The January 31, 2023 MNPT minutes and meeting summary were presented for information.

5.2 BC Egg Scheme Request

Currently BC Egg is the only supply managed commodity in BC that requires prior approval from BC FIRB to vary quota. BC Egg has formally requested that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food remove the prior approval requirement from the Scheme. Changes or amendments to the BC Egg Marketing Scheme requires an amendment to the Order in Council.



Ministry staff have notified BC Egg that they intend to review that request and, if it moves forward, submit the change with the same Order in Council request as the Federal Provincial Territorial Agreement (FPTA).

5.3 Marcom TOR

At the June MarCom meeting, the Committee reviewed their Terms of Reference and is recommending amendments be made to the term limit and update the per diem reference to the governance manual.

**R23-073** It was MOVED by Walter Siemens and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors approve the amendments to the Marketing and Communications Committee Terms of Reference.

CARRIED

5.4 FPTA Update

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AGRI) and BC FIRB staff have been working with BC Egg over the last year to review the revised FPTA and ensure a full understanding of how the FPTA would impact producers and stakeholders.

An updated version of the FPTA was sent to provinces for a final review on June 16, 2023 with a submission deadline of June 30, 2023. BCFIRB responded by the June 30 deadline. AGRI provided an interim response prior to the June 30 deadline and submitted their full response on July 17, 2023.

**Action:** The Chair will coordinate a meeting and information session with BC Egg Board, AGRI and BC FIRB to discuss the FPTA.

5.5 BC Supreme Court Ruling for BCMMB

The Board discussed the recent BC Supreme Court ruling for the BCMMB versus BCFIRB appeal regarding a BCFIRB 2021 decision on an appeal by a producer who was fined by the BCMMB for illegal milk sales.

## **6.0 PERFORMANCE REPORTS**

6.1 Quota Reports

6.1a Industry Reserve

The Industry Reserve report was presented for information.

6.1b Egg Import Information

The Egg Import reports was presented for information.

6.1c Quota Utilization Report

The Quota Utilization Report was presented for information.

6.1d Quota Credit Update

The Quota Credit balance was presented for information.

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6.1e Inventory Report

The Inventory Report was presented for information.

6.2 COP

The COP report was presented for information.

6.3 Feed Mill Participation Report & AAFC Report

The Feed Mill Participation Report & AAFC Report were presented for information.

6.4 CETPP Production Comparison

A CETPP Production Comparison report was presented for information.

6.5 Producer Utilization Update

The Producer Utilization update was presented for information using the weighted average as requested.

6.6 Active Leases

The Active Leases report was presented for information.

6.7 Barn Capacity

The Barn Capacity report was presented for information.

**7.0 MEETINGS HELD & UPCOMING**

7.1 2023 Meetings Held

The 2023 meetings held were presented for information.

7.2 2023 Meetings Upcoming

The 2023 upcoming meetings were presented for information.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was MOVED by Walter Siemens and SECONDED that the meeting be adjourned at 4:20pm.



Board Chair



Certified Correct, Secretary